

Annual Report 2025 / 2026

MANAGED FOREST COUNCIL

October 26, 2026

Ministry of Forests, The Incoming Minister
PO Box 9049, Stn. Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Forest Minister:

With pleasure, I submit the Managed Forest Council's Annual Report for 2025/2026. The report includes a summary of statutory requirements as prescribed in Section 10(2) of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act,* as well as an overview of Council's key activities and achievements for the year.

At the start of the 2025 program, there were 281 private managed forests in British Columbia, encompassing 805,338 hectares. Within the 2025 reporting year, 3.52 million m^3 of timber were harvested on managed forest land, representing approximately 11% of the total provincial timber harvest. Managed Forests are located mainly on Vancouver Island, the southern mainland Coast, in the Kootenays and the Okanagan- Shuswap.

Some highlights from 2025/2026 are:

- Initiated amendments to the *Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation*
- Maintained active engagement with the Ministry on forest carbon policy
- Completed a new Commercial Thinning Policy
- Updated 26 policies/procedures to meet internal review standards
- Represented Council at the FPBC, UBCM, AVICC, AKBLG and PFLA conventions
- Welcomed a new Council member appointee and a new Executive Director
- Processed thirteen (13) applications for new managed forests
- Conducted 61 inspections of managed forests throughout BC, which achieved 100% owner compliance rate, and followed up on previous inspection outcomes
- Monitored and tracked owner activity including:
    - 9,036 hectares harvested
    - 11,094 hectares restocked
    - 11,128 hectares successfully regenerated

Sincerely,

Trevor Swan, RPF, C Dir
Chair

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Managed forest owners reported over 11,000 hectares of successfully regenerated harvest areas in 2025 / 2026

What We Do

The Private Managed Forest Land Council is an independent agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* (Act) that was fully implemented in August 2004. Since 2014 the Private Managed Forest Land Council is known by its working name, the Managed Forest Council (Council).

The objective of Council is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land considering the social, environmental, and economic benefits of those practices. Council administers the Managed Forest Program, including the monitoring of forest practices and protection of key environmental values on private managed forest land as established by regulation.

Participation in the program by private landowners is voluntary. The Managed Forest Program is 100% funded by fees levied on the program participants.

Key environmental values are:

Soil conservation: to protect soil productivity

Water quality: to protect human drinking water

Fish habitat: to retain sufficient streamside mature trees and understory vegetation both during and after harvesting to protect fish habitat

Critical wildlife habitat: to facilitate the long-term protection of that habitat

Reforestation: to promptly regenerate disturbed areas with a healthy commercially valuable stand of trees that are not impeded by vegetative competition



Managed forest owners harvested 3.52 million cubic meters in 2025/2026. A variety of silviculture systems are used, depending on terrain, stand types and ecosystems.

Function of Council

Council is responsible for the administration of private managed forest land legislation. This includes four broad functions:

1. Carry out strategic planning, reporting and program administration
2. Establish and monitor forest practice standards
3. Enforce standards and perform audits and inspections
4. Review landowner applications to enter managed forest land class

This Annual Report covers the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. It includes information Council considers relevant to fulfilling its mandate and executing its powers, duties and functions under the Act.

2025 / 2026 Council

Council is comprised of representatives from government and managed forest landowners:

- a chair who is jointly appointed by the four members of Council for a three-year term
- two owner members elected for a three-year term by the private managed forest landowners
- two members appointed by the Minister of Forests

Council members report annually on their compliance with Council Standards for Conduct. For the 2025/2026 reporting period, all council members declared they abided by the Standards for Conduct as outlined in Council's Governance Policy Section III G.



Water quality and fish habitat are key environmental values protected by Council regulation

Council:

(profiles available at: www.mfcouncil.ca/about/who-we-are/)

Chair:

Trevor Swan

Owner Elected Members:

Will Pryhitko, MF 38

Blair Robertson, MF 177

Government Appointees:

Ione Brown

Brian Frenkel (until May 31, 2025)

Molly Hudson (as of June 1 2025)

Executive Director:

Ann Donaldson (until Oct 31 2025)

Pam Jorgenson (as of Nov 1 2025)

Council Activity

Program Administration

Financials

2025 / 2026 Operations	
Revenues	$604,484
Expenditures	$537,950
Excess revenues over expenditures	$66,534
Expense change over 2024-25	28.0% ↑
Net assets at year end	$295,868

Revenue Sources	
Administrative Fees	= $300 general fee + $0.3989/ $1000 Bare Land Value Total: $591,323
Interest Income	$13,161
Revenue change over 2024-25	5.2% ↑

- Increase in expenses is related primarily to executive director onboarding, and 2024-2025 fiscal expenses being unusually low. Expenses are below 2023-2024 fiscal year expenses.
- Grant Thornton LLP, an independent third-party accounting and auditing firm, conducted a Review Engagement of the 2025 fiscal year financial statements. Council accepted this Review in August 2026.

Management Commitments & Amendments

- Council receives management commitments from new applicants and from purchasers of existing managed forest land. Management commitments are evaluated and accepted within established time frames.
- Throughout the year, managed forest owners may submit management commitment amendments to add or remove land, revise forest management strategies, or update forest inventory. Amendments are processed in a timely manner to facilitate landowner planning and operations.



A stable road through a managed forest.

2025 / 2026 Performance Measures

Council reports on performance measures outlined in its annual Corporate Plan. These measures are established to assess progress toward achieving corporate goals and fulfilling Council's mandate.

Performance Measure # 1: Program Entry

Performance Measure	2025 / 2026 Target	2025 / 2026 Result
Days to process complete management commitment applications	30	Achieved

Discussion: Timely decision-making results in efficiencies for both Council and landowners. Council staff continues to aim for quick processing times through prompt communication with new applicants and the professionals managing their applications.

Performance Measure # 2: Inspections

Performance Measure	2025 / 2026 Target	2025 / 2026 Result
% of managed forests inspected within past 5 years	95	Achieved

Discussion: Council staff and contract inspectors conducted 61 managed forest inspections across the province, achieving a 99% compliance rate with this performance measure. Minor variation in scheduling occurs to accommodate geographic locations and efficiencies. Efforts are made to inspect new properties within three years of program entry.

Performance Measure # 3: Training

Performance Measure	2025 / 2026 Target	2025 / 2026 Result
Training events per Council member	2	Achieved

Discussion: Training is carried out for Council and staff to stay informed with respect to administrative law, compliance and enforcement, and evolving issues. Training included presentations and participation at local government conventions and the Forest Professionals BC conference, BC Council of Administrative Tribunals continuing education, presentations from government agencies, and a field tour to view recent forest management activities.

Performance Measure # 4: Meeting Attendance

Performance Measure	2025 / 2026 Target	2025 / 2026 Result
% meeting attendance	90	Achieved

Discussion: Regular attendance at Council meetings supports effective achievement of Council's statutory mandate. Council generally holds one regular business meeting per month. Eleven meetings were held in 2025-26, with overall attendance exceeding 90%.

Performance Measure # 5: Stakeholder Engagements

Performance Measure	2025 / 2026 Target	2025 / 2026 Result
# of stakeholder engagements	10	Achieved

Discussion: Stakeholder engagement is a key component of Council's ongoing communication strategy. Fifteen engagements were carried out with various stakeholders during the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Strategic Initiatives

Potential Legislative Amendments

Council identified potential amendments to the Private Managed Forest Land Act and the Council Regulation, and continued engagement with stakeholders including the Ministry of Forests and the Private Forest Landowners Association. Council continues to work to advance the potential amendments, with particular focus on the Regulation.

Communication Strategy

Council's communication strategy is to raise its profile with various stakeholders to improve their understanding of the legislative framework and Council's role in regulating forest practices; to ensure open communication; and to address stakeholder specific issues and initiatives.

Engagements included participation at local government conventions, regular meetings with the Private Forest Landowners Association and Ministry of Forests, and ongoing collaboration with BC Assessment. Council has an inquiry and complaints process that ensures timely communication with stakeholders, including the public, who express concerns about activity on private managed forest land. In 2025, Council responded to 8 inquiries/complaints from local public or officials.

Policy and Procedure Review

Council has several policies and procedures that guide its operations. Periodic review of the policies and procedures is important to ensure they continue to reflect legislation and current practices and provide owners with the guidance needed for meeting administrative requirements and forest practice standards. 26 policies/procedures were updated in 2025 under this initiative.

Council's objective is to encourage forest management practices on private managed forest land, considering the social, environmental and economic benefits of those practices.

Compliance Reporting

Inspections

- The Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation (Council Regulation) sets clear requirements for owners, contractors, employees and agents to support the management objectives in the Act for soil conservation, water quality, fish habitat, reforestation, and critical wildlife habitat.
- Council's annual Inspection Program is an important component of Council's function to monitor and enforce forest practice standards. Council has a policy to inspect all managed forests at least once every five years. The inspections are carried out by registered forest professionals. Inspections may occur more frequently for at risk properties or where owners are new to the Managed Forest program.
- Of the 61 managed forests inspected in 2025/2026, 16 were in the interior and 45 on the coast. The inspections covered a mix of small, medium, and large managed forests.
- Inspections include discussions with the owners regarding their recent forest management activities and practices, program requirements, and any concerns they may have. Inspections focused on recent harvesting, protection of water quality and fish habitat, practices related to newly constructed, maintained or deactivated roads, and the reforestation status of both older and more recent cutblocks.
- The 2025/2026 inspection program indicated that owners are managing their land in accordance with Council Regulation. One potential non-compliance was identified through inspection, but upon further review was considered to be compliant.

Investigations and Compliance Mechanisms

- Council investigates potential contraventions of the Council Regulation based on public or other stakeholder inquiries, inspection findings, or information provided in owners' mandatory reporting of landslides or debris flows.
- The Act establishes mechanisms to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The main mechanisms are consent agreements, administrative contravention determinations, stop work orders and offences.
- One field review occurred after an owner reported a slide which deposited material into a stream. The field inspection evaluated potential cause and impacts. No further actions were required. The owner took measures to prevent further impacts.



Inspectors assess owners' reforestation obligations as set out in the Council Regulation. It is rare to find non-compliance with these obligations.

MF Program Summary

Section 10(2) of the Act requires Council to report on managed forest owner and administrative penalty data. The data for 2025/2026 is reported in the following table.

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	COMMENT
a)	Number of owners subject to the Act	281 279	As of April 1, 2025 As of March 31, 2026
b)	Number of hectares subject to the Act	805,338 805,067	As of April 1, 2025 As of March 31, 2026
c)	Number of management commitments withdrawn	3	
d)	Number and nature of inspections performed	61	Routine inspections
e)	Number and nature of consent agreements	0	
f)	Amount of penalties collected and owing	$0	
g)	Number and nature of remediation orders made	0	
h)	Number and nature of stop work orders made	0	
i)	New regulations enacted by Council	0	

Owner Annual Declarations Summary

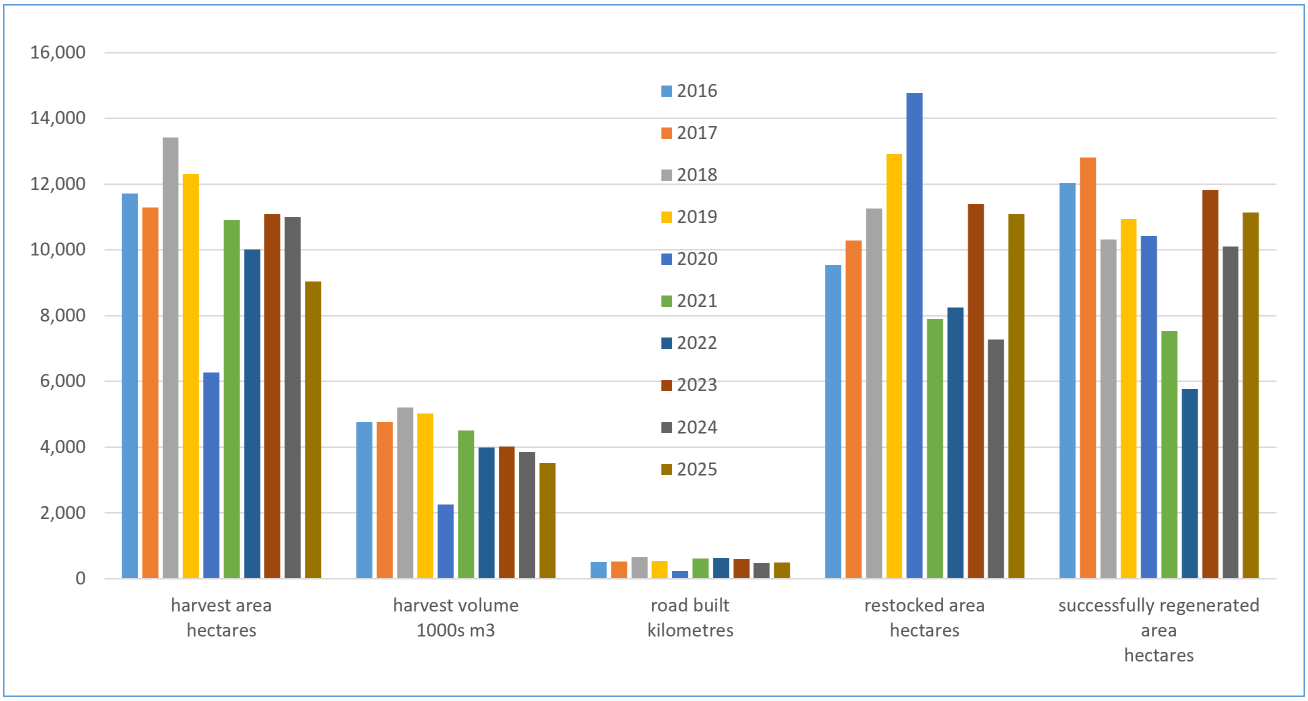
By May 1 of each year, owners of private managed forest land are required to submit to Council a declaration of the operations completed in the previous reporting period. The 2025 / 2026 reported activity is as follows:

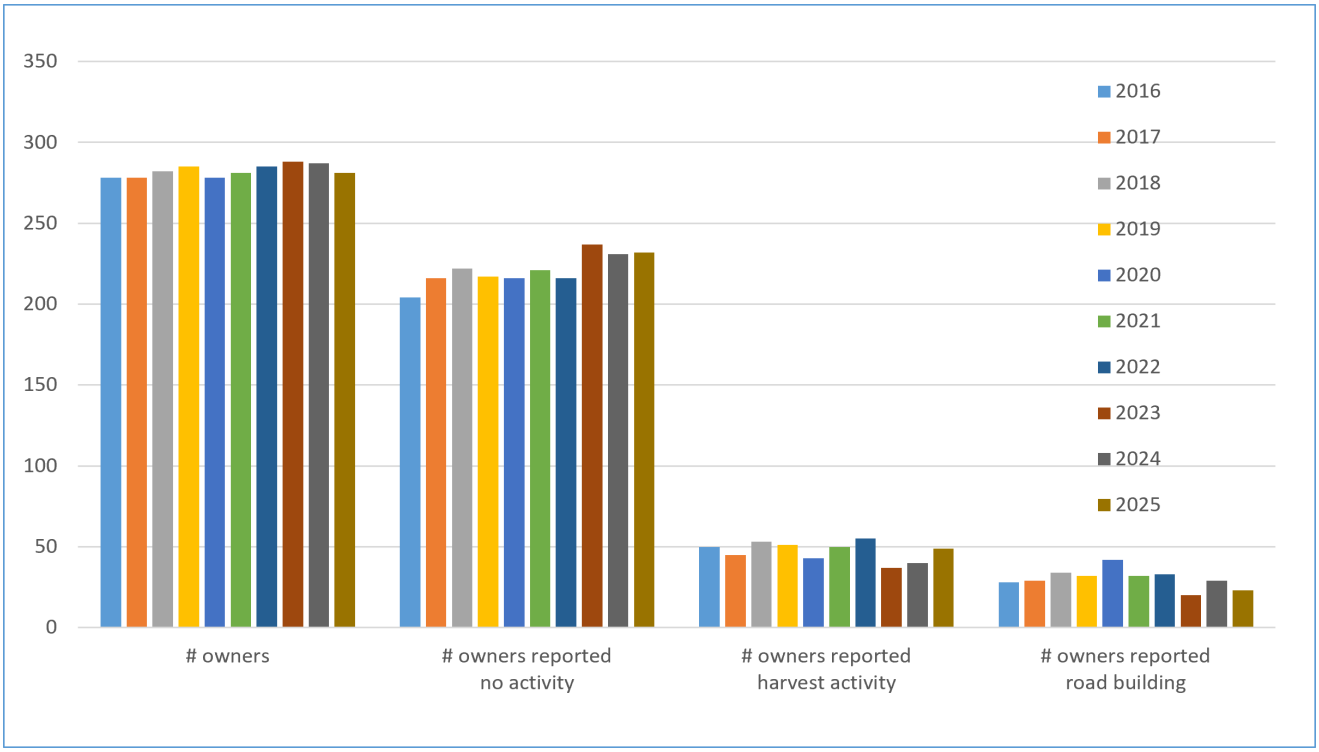
	Total # Owners	No Activity	Harvest Activity	Destroyed Timber	Road Construction	Road Deactivation	Reforestation	
							Restocked	Successfully Regenerated
Coast Jan 1 - Dec 31	206	175 owners	24 owners 7921 ha 3,248,979 m^3	7 owners 2,389 ha	15 owners 468 km	5 owners 80 km	14 owners 8,156 ha	12 owners 10,619 ha
Interior Apr 1 - Mar 31	75	57 owners	12 owners 1,116 ha 271,076 m^3	1 owner 2.5 ha	8 owners 21 km	2 owners 22 km	9 owners 2,938 ha	4 owners 509 ha
TOTAL	281*	232 owners	49 owners 9037 ha 3,520,055 m^3	8 owners 2,391.5 ha**	23 owners 489 km	7 owners 102 km	23 owners 11,094 ha	16 owners 11,128 ha

* Total number of owners does not equal the sum of no activity owners and owners reporting activity due to differing combinations of activities by some owners.

** 99.9% of destroyed timber was caused by fire; the remainder was due to flooding from beaver activity and site rehabilitation

Annual Activity Level Comparison 2016 – 2025







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